

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6633

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR YO

SUBJ: ECPC OUTLOOK

REF: BELGRADE 3136

1. "NIN" MAY 16 CARRIED ARTICLE BY FOREIGN EDITOR MAROVIC WHICH GIVES CLEARER PICTURE OF PROBLEMS GRICKOV ALLUDED TO PER REFTEL. MAROVIC OBSERVED THAT WHILE DRAFTING COMMISSION HAD SET ITS "FINAL MEETING" FOR BEGINNING OF JUNE, GRICKOV HAD RETURNED FROM BERLIN WITH NEWS THAT PROBLEMS STILL REMAINED. ONE PROBLEM WAS THAT WHILE IN THEORY CONFERENCE WOULD FOLLOW FINAL MEETING OF DRAFTING COMMISSION BY FIFTEEN DAYS, FINAL DOCUMENT FIRST HAD TO BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY PARTICIPATING PARTIES, AND THIS WOULD NOT BE EASY DURING MONTH OF JUNE. ITALIAN CP WOULD BE TIED UP WITH JUNE 20 ELECTIONS, AND BRITISH CP HAD ALREADY STATED THAT IT WOULD BE UNABLE TO MAKE DECISION ON ANY FINAL DOCUMENT DURING JUNE.

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2. CITING ARTICLES IN "LA STAMPA" AND "MORNING STAR",

MAROVIC WENT ON TO USE ITALIANS AND BRITISH TO MAKE YUGOSLAV POINTS, SAYING THESE PARTIES HAD MADE CLEAR IN PAST FEW DAYS THAT NOT JUST "PROCEDURAL" BUT "SUBSTANTIVE" PROBLEMS REMAINED. THERE WAS STILL DEBATE ABOUT WHETHER THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE GOVERNED BY THE PRINCIPLE OF CONSENSUS OR AS IN 1969 BY VOTES WITH THOSE WHO DO NOT AGREE WITH SOMETHING NOT SIGNING. MAROVIC HINTED DARKLY AT NEW DIFFICULTIES, SAYING THAT "THE TENDENCY TO WORK IN THE OLD WAY" HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETELY AVOIDED IN PREPARATORY WORK UP TO NOW. THE OLD QUESTION OF WHAT KIND OF CONFERENCE IT WOULD BE HAD AGAIN ARISEN-- IF IT IS TO BE A FREE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, IF THE DOCUMENT IS NOT BINDING THEN THERE IS NO NEED FOR VOTING. HE STRESSED THAT DESPITE ACCEPTANCE OF PRINVTGBSN OF CONSENSUS AND NON-OBLIGATORY DOCUMENT THERE WERE ATTEMPTS THROUGH "PROCUDURAL

QUESTIONS" TO RETURN THE CONFERENCE ITSELF TO THE WELL-KNOWN METHODS OF EARLIER MEETINGS WHICH HAD BEEN REJECTED BY MA N LERTIES. MAROVIC CONCLUDED THAT DRAFTING COMMIS- SION, IN ITS FINAL JUNE MEETING, WOULD NOT HAVE EASY JOB.

3. COMMENTS: AT LEAST ONE OF YUGOSLAV CONCERNS NOW CLEAR-- THEY DO NOT WANT TO SET A PRECEDENT FOR VOTING IN GROUP WHERE THEY ARE STILL A MINORITY. ALSO CLEAR THEY DO NOT WANT A VOTE AS THIS WOULD REMOVE THE FREEDOM OF MANEUVER THEY ACCUSTOMED TO, E.G., WITH NONALIGNED DOCUMENTS WHICH ADOPTED BY CONSENSUS THEY CAN AND DO CLAIM LATER THEY DID NOT SUPPORT SPECIFIC SECTIONS. ALSO POSSIBLE NOW THAT AS CON- FERENCE NEARS, THEY AS CONCERNED WITH VOTE ON PROCEDURAL QUESTIONS OF WHETHER CONFERENCE WILL BE OPEN OR CLOSED, AND WHETHER SPEECHES WILL BE SUBMITTED AND VETTED IN ADVANCE, AS THEY ARE ABOUT DOCUMENT. AND FINALLY AS WE NOTED IN REFTEL, THIS TEMPEST MAY HAVE MORE TO DO WITH OTHER MATTERS IN YUGOSLAV-SOVIET RELATIONS SUCH AS BREZHNEV'S TRIP THAN WITH ECPC. BOTH FSFA AND NEWS SOURCES HAVE BEEN MORE HEDGED ABOUT TRIP'S PROSPECTS IN RECENT DAYS. POSSIBLE TITO WANTS VISIT MORE THAN BREZHNEV, THAT MOJSOV AND OTHER STATEMENTS PREDICTING IT WERE MADE AS ATTEMPTS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FORCE SOVIET DECISION, AND THAT YUGOSLAVS STILL EXERTING PRESSURE. SILBERMAN

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